

County and township history

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1840s and 50s and the naming conventions changed. This was a highly political time and instead of using locals, the people named townships after prominent political figures. Jackson Township, which was formed from the northernmost part of Grass Township, was named after Andrew Jackson, military hero and president of the United States.

Those familiar with Lincoln Lore may remember Jackson Township residents were Democratic in politics, but at the time of the 40s and 50s the Whig Party was making strides, having elected their first President in 1840. That President was well known in the area, former Indiana Governor William Henry Harrison. To honor Harrison, the northeastern township in Spencer County was named after the then President-Elect. This proved ironic as the township served as a Democratic stronghold for over a century. Even in 1886, when the History of Warrick, Spencer and Perry Counties was published, the naming of Harrison Township still served as a bit of a joke which might have been funny until the township got revenge

via the ballot box.

The final township to be created in Spencer County also selected a national statesman for its namesake. Even though Henry Clay had probably never stepped foot in the township that bears his name, this township name still pays homage to one of the nation's greatest political statesman and orators.

After the formation of Clay, Spencer County has not had a serious push to create another township. There are several reasons for this. One is that too many more townships could become cumbersome. Nine seems to be manageable. Townships once required a variety of government officials to provide basic services. Besides the township trustee and advisory board and council, the township would need someone to look after the schools in the area, a major responsibility of the townships until the middle of the 20th century. In addition to poor relief, townships would be responsible in part with public safety and health, a health inspector and a constable being regular appointments made by the boards. With each new township

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